

## **Flathead National Forest**

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## Media Release

March 7, 2014 Contact: Wade Muehlhof (406) 758-5252

## Flathead Forest Friday Focus: Uphill Ski Travel

Everyone Invited for a Breakfast Chat on Friday, March 21

KALISPELL, MONT. – In 2010 Whitefish Mountain Resort (WMR) and Flathead National Forest (FNF) worked together to establish an uphill traffic policy and supporting Special Order to maintain access to public lands, reduce risk to uphill and downhill skiers and minimize disruption to WMR employees and operations. WMR management has recently expressed concern about continued noncompliance with the uphill traffic policy. The Forest Service is working with WMR to find ways to maintain public access, increase compliance, improve public safety and reduce conflict with essential operations of a ski resort.

The public is invited to discuss the future of uphill travel during the next Flathead Forest Friday on March 21, 2014 at the Pin & Cue located at 6570 U.S. Highway 93 South in Whitefish, Montana. The no-host breakfast chat starts at 7:00 AM. Attendees will learn about the efforts the FNF is taking to better enforce the policy and what is at risk with continued non-compliance. Leaders from the forest hope to hear from attendees their ideas on how to improve compliance and any other thoughts on the policy.

Every other month, the Forest Service will coordinate these no-host breakfast meetings at a local restaurant with the goal of sharing good food, great company, and a little information about what's happening on our National Forest. We hope the event will be a great way to discuss public land management opportunities and challenges that are important to us all.

If you plan to attend or have any questions, please notify Public Affairs Officer Wade Muehlhof at <a href="mailto:ewmuehlhof@fs.fed.us">ewmuehlhof@fs.fed.us</a> or (406) 758-5252. Your response allows us to plan accordingly with the restaurant.